

26. (Twice Amended) An influenza antigen comprising a fusion product, said fusion product comprising

C1 (i) an immunogenic extracellular part of (a) an M2 membrane protein of a human influenza A virus, (b) an NB protein of a human influenza B virus, or (c) a CM2 protein of a human influenza C virus, and

(ii) a presenting carrier.

C2 32. (Twice Amended) The influenza antigen of claim 31, wherein the presenting carrier comprises an epitope recognized by an influenza-specific T helper cell or cytotoxic T cell.

46. (Twice Amended) An influenza antigen obtained by the following steps:

C3 providing a nucleic acid construct that encodes a fusion product, said fusion product comprising (i) an immunogenic extracellular part of (a) an M2 membrane protein of a human influenza A virus, (b) an NB protein of a human influenza B virus, or (c) a CM2 protein of a human influenza C virus, and (ii) a presenting peptide;

introducing the nucleic acid construct into an acceptor cell;

culturing the acceptor cell under conditions that allow expression of the fusion product; and

optionally isolating the fusion product from the acceptor cell or its culture medium,

thereby obtaining an influenza antigen comprising the fusion product.

52. (Amended) The influenza vaccine of claim 35, wherein the influenza vaccine comprises a cytokine.

53. (Amended) The influenza vaccine of claim 35, wherein the influenza vaccine comprises a vaccine adjuvant that is not Freund's adjuvant.

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Sub D3

54. (Amended) An influenza antigen for an animal species comprising a fusion product, said fusion product comprising

- (i) an immunogenic extracellular part of (a) an M2 membrane protein of an influenza A virus or (b) an NB protein of an influenza B virus of said animal species; and
- (ii) a presenting carrier.

Please add the following claims.

55. (Added) The influenza antigen of claim 26, wherein the fusion product comprises the entire extracellular domain of the M2 protein.

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56. (Added) The influenza antigen of claim 55, wherein the amino acid sequence of said entire extracellular domain is SEQ ID NO:1, 2, or 3.

57. (Added) The influenza antigen of claim 26, wherein the fusion product comprises the entire extracellular domain of the NB or CM2 protein.